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Dulles Defended Lying to Shield FBI and CIA

Book Quotes Late Spy Director as Saying Practice Was Justified to Protect Agents

WASHINGTON (AP)—The late CIA Director Allen W. Dulles told the Warren Commission that the FBI and CIA directors might lie to anyone but the President to conceal identities of their undercover agents, according to recently declassified documents.

The documents are quoted in a book published Friday about the investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination entitled "Whitewash IV" by Harold Weisberg, a Frederick, Md., writer and investigator.

He lost a suit against the government seeking release of the Dulles documents. However, the National Archives later declassified the information and sent him copies.

As a member of the Warren Commission, Dulles, who died in 1969, took part in a discussion on Jan. 27, 1964, about whether Directors J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI and John A. McCone of the CIA would answer truthfully if questioned about whether Lee Harvey Oswald had ever worked for either of their agencies.

The declassified documents included a verbatim transcript of that executive session of the commission.

"I think under any circumstances, I think Mr. Hoover would say certainly he didn't have anything to do with this fellow," said Dulles, who was no longer CIA director.

The book quotes Dulles as saying: "I would tell the President of the United States anything, yes, I am under his control . . . I wouldn't necessarily tell anybody else, unless the President authorized me to do it."

At one point in the discussion the book quotes the late Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), saying to Dulles: "If Oswald never had assassinated the President, or at least been charged with assassinating the President and had been in the employ of the FBI and somebody had gone to the FBI, they would have denied he was an agent."

Dulles responded: "Oh, yes."

Russell then said: "They would be the first to deny it. Your agents would have done exactly the same thing."

Dulles said: "Exactly."

Hoover told the commission when he was questioned on May 14, 1964: "I can most emphatically say that at no time was he (Oswald) ever an employe of the bureau in any capacity, either as an agent or as a special employe, or as an informant."

McCone was asked by the committee's general counsel, J. Lee Rankin, whether Oswald "had any connection with the CIA, informer, or indirectly as an employe, or any other capacity?"

McCone replied: "I have determined to my satisfaction that he had no such connection . . ."

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